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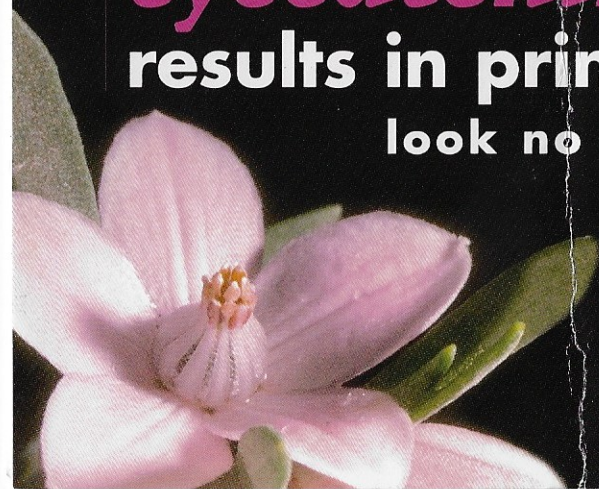
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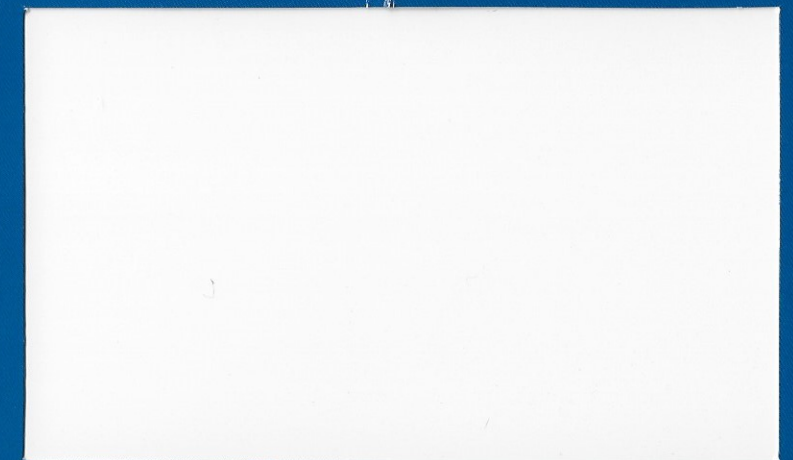
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SPIRIT NEWS



MATCH DAY PROGRAM



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NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE TABLE: AFTER ROUND 20

Position	Team	Played	Points
1	Perth Glory	19	44
2	Olympic Sharks	19	41
3	Newcastle United	19	29
4	South Melbourne	18	28
5	Parramatta Power	17	25
6	Adelaide City Force	18	25
7	Wollongong Wolves	19	23
8	Football Kingz	18	20
9	Melbourne Knights	18	20
10	Sydney United	18	19
11	Brisbane Strikers	19	19
12	Northern Spirit	16	18
13	Marconi Stallions	18	17



NEXT HOME GAME



Northern Spirit

VS

Wollongong Wolves

at Brookvale Oval

Sunday February 9, 2003

Gates Open 3:00pm

Kick off 5:30pm

Match Day Presented by

Cadbury Ice Cream



Antonio Gelonesi – CHAIRMAN

Welcome to North Sydney Oval for tonight's mid-week clash with Parramatta Power. Both teams recognise the importance of tonight's game that has been deferred from round 13. This result can give either side a very valuable three points that may determine part of the make up of the top six come finals time. We're looking to get a result tonight after returning from a disappointing trip to Perth while Parramatta had the bye in the last round.

We return to North Sydney Oval confident that we can play great football here, especially after our 1-0 win against Sydney United in January. With two wins and one loss from our last three games, the team is showing the positive results of our rebuilding process by playing entertaining, attacking football.

The past few weeks have seen some more positive steps within the Club as we welcome to the team Stewart Petrie from Scotland, Shane Thompson from Adelaide and Bradley Groves

from Parramatta Power. Both Petrie and Groves made their debut for Spirit last week against Perth, and I'm sure you'll show all three players your support for tonight's match.

On behalf of Northern Spirit, I'd also like to congratulate Nathan Hughes, one of our Spirit Youth goalkeepers, on his inclusion in the Australian under 17 squad for the FIFA under 17 World Championship qualifying tournament. Hughes has been with the Spirit since 2001 and graduated to the National Youth League side in November last year. Goalkeeping coach John Crawley speaks very highly of Hughes and we wish him well for the tournament.

Tonight's game is the second for the team in five days and we get to back up again on Sunday when we take on the Wollongong Wolves at Brookvale Oval. I hope you can join us for the 5:30pm kick off as we pay tribute to Alex Tobin's achievement of over 500 NSL games.

NORTHERN SPIRIT VS PARRAMATTA POWER

February 5, 2003

GATES OPEN AT 4:30PM

KICK OFF AT 7:30PM

VIEW FROM THE TOP

— Lawrie McKinna

Firstly a well deserved 'Congratulations' to Alex Tobin on reaching the 500-game appearance mark. Thoroughly well deserved and what a servant to the game he has been, and continues to be. I'm glad he is at Spirit and I'm sure you will all want to cheer him on tonight in typical North Sydney Oval fashion.

Secondly, as I am writing this before the Perth Glory game, as we have one of our catch-up games against Parramatta Power tonight, I cannot predict what the result has been for us last weekend. Having said that, I can assure everyone that we will have gone to Perth with the intent of bringing something back to Sydney with us, hopefully a win.

In our match here we didn't really get into our stride so much until the second-half of the game. That is something we have worked on in recent weeks and for those who were here for that fixture they can tell you we should probably have got something out of it. As if on cue, Damian Mori popped up to net the decider very late in the game after he had been kept in check throughout.

That is typical Mori. He only needs a sniff of goal and you start to play catch-up football. He is still chasing his 200th NSL goal, which we all hope he didn't record against us last weekend, and was three short when we made the trip over. I'm sure Alex will want to remember his 500th appearance with fond memories and I know the guys want that for him too and will have gone all out to achieve it for him and the team.

I was asked after our last home game, against Sydney United, if I thought a top six place was a realistic chance. The answer is that so long as it remains a mathematical question then of course it is. I don't want to go over old ground again by adding pressure to the squad. We will evaluate that scenario later in the season when we've looked at our next set of results. We will simply take each game as it comes, to use the well worn cliché, and if that takes us into the play-offs, so be it. I couldn't possibly say we will or will not make the finals. Who can?

Tonight we meet a Parramatta side that took apart Marconi in their last match to the tune of 7-goals to nil. That is an excellent result for them in anyone's language. That was then, this is now. I'm certain they will find the going a lot harder tonight and as usual we will play our game and let them worry about us.

In our previous meetings here we have managed a tick in all three columns. Commonsense dictates that will change tonight but we are out to add the next tick under the big 'W' for Won. Thankfully our destiny is still pretty much in our own hands and we will battle away right up to, and including, Round 26 and see where that takes us.

Thank you for your loyal support this season. It may not have been great in numbers so far but it has certainly been appreciated by the players and all connected with the Club. If we can achieve the main aim of laying the foundations for future seasons during this campaign we will be extremely pleased with the outcome.

THE SPIRIT YOUTH

— Gary McGinnis

The Spirit Youth team have had only one game in three weeks but they have followed the great example set by the Senior team by chalking up their one game as a victory away from home, similar to the seniors at Marconi. Prior to the away game against the A.I.S the youth squad had their previous game postponed due to the extreme heat on the day of the match. Last week-ends match against the Marconi Colts was also postponed due to a clash with ground bookings.

Despite the forced inactivity the Spirit Youth looked forward to a very testing game against the Institute in Canberra. The A.I.S. squad are flying high in second spot and look likely to coast towards winning the league in just a few weeks time. Spirit on the other hand have had quite a run themselves suffering only one defeat since November 10th of last year!

Spirit went into the game minus Adam Foti who had been sent off in our last game but was replaced with our new first team recruit, twenty year old Bradley Groves, making his debut in Spirit colours. On a surprisingly cool summers night the A.I.S. started strongly and dictated the early minutes of the game but without causing any real goal threat. It wasn't to take long before Spirit started to impose themselves on the game as soon after they showed their intentions with some penetrating forays into the oppositions box.

These attacks were soon to be rewarded when a quick breakaway led to Sean Walsh gaining space inside the penalty area which led to a rash tackle and a handball offence by the same defender which resulted in a penalty for the Spirit in the 17th minute. Our livewire winger Andrew 'The Shermo' Mailer duly despatched the ball into the corner of the net with the goalkeeper helpless.

Spirit started to dominate and gained more and more confidence as the game progressed. It wasn't to be too long before we added to our tally after some great interplay that led to 'The Shermo' darting down the right to thunder a low powerful cross into the six yard box. With the goalkeeper stranded and a defender making a

desperate attempt to clear the ball he unwittingly steered the ball into his own net for a welcome and totally deserved 2-0 lead after only 23 minutes. Due credit must go to the fine build up play and penetrating cross that proves that if you get the ball in to the danger area often enough then you will reap the rewards.

For the remainder of the half the A.I.S. had their fair share of possession but rarely threatened a determined and resolute defence.

The second half started at a hectic pace as the opponents tried to gain a stranglehold on the game but still it was Spirit who looked much more dangerous with fine attempts from Sean Walsh and Omar Obeid. Young Daniel Blake, starting only his fifth NYL game, was having a fine game alongside a very competent central midfield of Steven Baveas and Olly Skelding. Our goalkeeper, Jacob Rex, was rarely called into action mainly due to the outstanding performances of our back three of Travis Oughtred, Matt Hunter and a tigerish Michael Mouyis.

Both teams continued to play at great pace and with great ability to keep possession of the ball but it was to end with a fine 2-0 victory to the Northern Spirit Youth Team. It was difficult to highlight any particular player but it is suffice to say that on this performance at least, we have some excellent prospects coming through the ranks at Spirit. I'm sure it won't be long before we can see a number of these players gracing the NSL in the near future.

Summing up, our Youth team coach, Charlie Davidson, managed to fight his way through to the post match press conference saying " I'm delighted that our team performed so well against a well drilled side like the A.I.S. This was probably our best team performance this season but we also had some great individual performances throughout the team". Davidson went on to say "I must also sing the praises of our backroom team of Phil Smealie and John Ward who have helped endlessly to instil the team spirit into our squad." Well said Charlie.

Northern Spirit

#	Player	Position	DOB
2	Julian Watts	Defender	17/03/71
3	Simon Bell	Defender	21/10/78
4	Noel Spencer	Midfield	26/07/77
5	Alex Tobin	Defender	03/11/65
6	Robbie Trajkovski	Midfield	24/07/72
7	Andrew McDermott	Midfield	24/03/77
8	Ian Ferguson	Midfield	15/03/67
9	Adam Kwasnik	Striker	31/05/83
10	Dylan Macallister	Striker	17/05/82
11	Troy Cranney	Midfield	09/02/72
12	John Hutchinson	Midfield	29/12/79
14	Bradley Groves	Midfield	29/01/82
15	Vuko Tomasevic	Midfield	13/05/80
16	Brent Fisher	Striker	06/07/83
18	Alex Wilkinson	Defender	13/08/84
20	Paul Henderson	Goalkeeper	22/04/76
21	Sean Walsh	Midfield	14/02/84
22	Matthew Osman	Defender	29/07/83
23	Steven Bareas	Midfield	07/04/84
24	Mitchell Prentice	Midfield	02/03/83
25	Shane Thompson	Midfield	24/11/78
27	Jonathan Richter	Midfield	12/04/83
28	Matthew Hunter	Defender	29/04/84
30	Jacob Rex	Goalkeeper	10/4/84
32	Adam Foti	Striker	20/02/84
33	Russell Woodruffe	Striker	08/11/85

Parramatta Power

#	Player	Position	DOB
1	Liam Reddy	Goalkeeper	08/08/81
2	Predrag Bojic	Defender	09/04/84
3	Alvin Ceccoli	Midfield	05/08/74
4	Nick Orlic	Defender	06/08/70
5	Michael Beauchamp	Defender	08/03/81
6	Matt Thompson	Midfield	18/08/82
7	Wayne O'Sullivan	Midfield	25/02/74
8	Brad Maloney	Midfield	19/01/72
9	Pablo Cardozo	Striker	23/12/72
10	Royce Brownlie	Midfield	28/01/80
11	Damien Brown	Midfield	12/01/75
12	Kosta Salapasidis	Midfield	01/07/78
14	Matthew Langdon	Midfield	02/05/80
15	Ray Younis	Midfield	08/08/74
16	Jacek Sobczyk	Defender	02/09/79
17	Peter Zorbas	Midfield	14/05/79
18	John Buonavoglia	Striker	19/10/75
19	Brendan Renaud	Midfield	21/08/73
21	Ahmad Elrich	Midfield	30/05/81
22	Joe Vrkic	Defender	31/08/76
23	Patrick Carrera	Defender	25/07/83
26	Daniel Vukovic	Goalkeeper	27/03/85
30	Andrew Carman	Goalkeeper	02/11/83

OUR VISITOR'S TONIGHT

An unusual day for an NSL match but this evening we tackle Parramatta Power from the west of the city in a traditionally close but entertaining game.

Power come off the back of that seven-nil trouncing of the Stallions at Parramatta Stadium and must be feeling pretty good with themselves. However, tonight they tackle Northern Spirit and that should provide an altogether different proposition.

The legend reads; All Matches P6 W2 D1 L3 F7 A9. The record at home is a complete mixture with neither side actually gaining the ascendancy; P3 W1 D1 L1 F1 A1. It doesn't really take a genius to work out that at NSO there have been two one-nil wins and a goalless draw.

John Buonavoglia (#18) found the net on no fewer than four occasions during that match to bring his total for the season to nine goals. After a sluggish start to the campaign, many feel that 'Jockey' has adjusted to the style of play and is starting to hit his straps once more.

Buonavoglia has started to enjoy his striking partner's efforts down the right – Ahmad Elrich (#21) – and is benefiting from the service. Elrich is a more than accomplished scorer of course, when allowed to run at the defence, but is down the right channel with his jinky runs that would see him best suited. Also up front the coach can decide upon playing either ex-Spirit man Pablo Cardozo (#9) or a number of variable options.

The left channel can be patrolled and utilised by either Brendan Renaud (#19) or another Spirit ex-favourite, Matty Langdon (#14).

Midfield is general led by the little master, and Power captain, Brad 'Bugsy' Maloney. He returned to Sydney before the start of the season after spending a couple of years over in Perth with the Glory. A tireless runner, tricky, hard to knock off the ball and another with an eye for goal, he needs to be watched carefully.

Nick Theodorakopoulos is an astute coach who guided unfashionable Wollongong Wolves to

the first of their two Grand Final wins. Losing nil-three at half-time to Glory in Perth, the guys pulled out all the stops and won the game on penalties. It shows that a 'Nicky Alphabet' prepared side doesn't know when it is beaten and battles away. (Anyone who doesn't do that for Nick will find he is on the bench pretty sharpish). He went on to coach Kallithea in Greece and enjoyed moderate success but it more of a learning curve for the man. Nick was also unlucky when breaking a leg playing for Olympic Sharks and then again in the return fixture the following season and has coached or co-coached many State League sides. A true gentleman within the game.

All fixtures are tough at this stage of the season and with the experience the side has picked up over the opening half of the campaign, let's ensure North Sydney Oval is a hard place to come to and take away from.

NORTHERN SPIRIT EASTER SOCCER CAMPS

We are now taking bookings for our Easter Soccer Camps for boys and girls aged between six and 16 years. The camps are running from 9am – 3pm in five locations from Monday 14th April until Thursday 17th April. You will have access to qualified coaches, be able to meet Northern Spirit first team players, every child receives a gift from the Spirit as well as being able to learn and develop new soccer skills for the new season.

Venue 1 –
Cromer Park, 101 South Creek Road, Dee Why

Venue 2 –
Killarney Oval, Melwood Avenue, Killarney

Venue 3 –
Lionel Watts, Blackbutts Road, Frenchs Forest

Venue 4 –
Jackson Road, Playing Fields, Warriewood

Venue 5 –
Kuringai High School, Bobbin Head Rd, Turramurra

To book your place on the camp please call
02 8904 1487 or send an email to
marketing@northernspirit.com.au

FAIR PLAY STANDING'S OR "HE'S A REAL CARD!"

Time to look again at the card situation and see who has what and who didn't get the Christmas pressie they were after. These statistics are taken after Round 19 and we'll look at goals and attendance averages on Sunday at Brookvale.

When it comes to the team side of things, nothing can compare with Marconi Stallions record this season; 46-yellow cards and one red for a total of 49-points (one per yellow and three for a red). However, they are not that far ahead of the Melbourne Knights, and Sydney United.

New leaders of the Fair Play stakes are South Melbourne after Perth Glory had two players sent-off against Sydney United in their one all

draw at Sydney United Sports Centre (Edensor Park). It is believed that Bradley Hassell will appeal his sending off but that would still leave his side one point above South.

Northern Spirit was heading the table in the early part of the season and was, therefore the bad boys of the NSL but they have since dropped back into the pack although having played a few games less than some.

Once more it appears that teams with inexperienced or smaller squads are the ones most likely to fall foul of the law and the table below suggests more discipline is needed.

Team	Games	Yellows	Red	DbI/Ylw	Pts
Marconi Stallions	17	46	1	0	49
Melbourne Knights	17	33	4	3	45
Sydney United	17	26	6	4	44
Adelaide City Force	17	39	1	1	42
Football Kingz	17	33	2	0	39
W'gong Wolves	18	33	2	1	39
Olympic Sharks	18	31	2	2	37
Brisbane Strikers	18	30	2	2	36
Northern Spirit	15	26	3	1	35
Parramatta Power	17	19	4	2	31
Newcastle United	18	28	0	0	28
Perth Glory	18	21	2	0	27
South Melbourne	17	14	3	2	23
TOTALS:	224	379	32	18	

Before Rd 20 started last weekend a further 121 yellow cards were needed to reach the 500 mark we talked about earlier in the season, and another 18 red cards would see number 50 of the campaign.

Although in recent weeks the number of cards being shown has dropped slightly overall, it still shows that far too many players are collecting them for offences that should otherwise have been driven from their game.

As always, to have received so many cautions it takes the man-in-the-middle to produce them and once more there appears to be a familiar look about the table. We must stress here that all cautions and dismissals handed down by referees this season have been justified unless we are otherwise informed. It is not the referee who is to blame but the lack of sportsmanship and/or discipline within it. It can also be argued the growth of the 'professional' foul and new FIFA directives are partly to blame.